

PROGRAM

77TH ANNUAL GULF & CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE



GUADELOUPE, FRENCH WEST INDIES | 4 - 8 NOVEMBER, 2024

ABOUT GCFI

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) was founded in 1947 to promote the exchange of information on the use and management of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean Region. From its beginning, GCFI has endeavored to involve scientific, governmental, and resource-use sectors in providing a broad perspective on relevant fisheries issues. The GCFI membership comprises over 40 nations and territories representing university faculty and students, governmental agencies, policy-makers, private sector, fishers, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

GCFI is partnering with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe to host GCFI77. The theme of this year's conference is "Marine ecosystems under pressure: reduction, reinforcement and reconciliation to improve human populations quality of life". Join us in Guadeloupe, French West Indies, to exchange ideas and perspectives about new research, emerging issues, scientific breakthroughs, and governance related to fisheries science, industry, conservation, and management.



VENUE & HOST COUNTRY

The venue for GCFI77 will be La Creole Beach Hotel & Spa, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. An archipelago of over a dozen sun-kissed islands, Guadeloupe is a varied place to holiday, with everything from deserted beaches to jungle-wreathed mountains. The country's two main islands look like the wings of a butterfly and are joined together by just a couple of bridges and a mangrove swamp. Grande-Terre, the eastern of the two islands, has a string of beach towns that offer visitors world-class stretches of sand to laze on and plenty of activities. Mountainous Basse-Terre, the western island, is home to thick, lush Parc National de la Guadeloupe, replete with waterfalls and topped by the spectacular La Soufrière volcano.

CONFERENCE APP - WHOVA

GCFI will be once again utilizing Whova, our Conference App, which can help improve networking and facilitate connections between in-person and virtual participants. Attendees can create profiles, communicate with and schedule meetups with other attendees (in-person or virtually) whilst also being able to create personalised agendas, take notes, share documents, and much more. The app will also be used to provide simultaneous interpretation. **Please remember to bring your personal headsets (headphones, ear buds etc).**

REGISTRATION & TIME ZONE

Registration will take place at the space outside the conference room between 16:00 - 18:00 on Sunday 3 November and daily from 8:00.

All times listed within this program are Local Guadeloupe Time (Atlantic Standard Time Zone - AST)



MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

GCFI77 OPENING CEREMONY | 8:30 - 9:00

Opening Remarks

- Welcome Remarks
- Local Remarks
- GCFI Remarks



GCFI77 KEYNOTE ADDRESS (9:00) DR. DALILA ALDANA ARANDA

Dalila Aldana Aranda is a Biologist from the National Polytechnic Institute. Her distinctions include being the recipient of the National Award for Ecological Merit, Knight of the Legion of Honor of the Republic of France, Knight of the Academic Palms from the French Ministry of Education and the Science Communication Award from the Spanish Agency for Scientists. She is the First Woman to be the Chair of GCFI and Ibero-American Coordinator of the Science and Technology for Development Program (CYTED). She is the President of the Caribbean Marine Laboratory Association and President of the Mexican Academy of Sciences.

All her professional activity has been carried out in the Caribbean, as a researcher at CINVESTAV IPN. Her research is focused on aquaculture and fisheries management as well as the effect of climate change and ocean acidification and microplastic pollution. She holds a Doctorate in Biological Oceanography, Aquaculture and Fisheries from the University of Bretagne Occidentale, France. She has a second PhD in Population Biology from the University of Marseille, France and also has the qualification to direct doctoral thesis in France (HRD). Several of her investigations have been pillars in management plans for fisheries and the social and economic importance in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

She has been actively involved in various science popularization and dissemination programs of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, with several programs including the AMC's Passport to the Path of Scientific Knowledge. She has also been actively involved with the UN 11F Program, on the International Day of Girls and Women in Science.

Question & Answer Period

OPENING BELL | 9:45

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30

MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES | 10:30 - 12:00

- ***Dana Grieco:** How Can Systems Mapping Help Us To Understand How Climate Change And Conservation Impact Data Poor Coral Reef Social-Ecological Systems?
- **Isabel James:** Participatory Seascape Mapping: A Community-Based Approach to Fisheries Management
- **Heloise Mathieu:** Seine net in Martinique, a fishing skill in progress : current practices and environmental impact assessment
- **Frédérique Fardin:** Integrating fishers' perceptions within a socio-ecological dependency context: insights from Martinique and Jamaica
- **Marta Calosso:** Developing biodiversity stewardship and ocean literacy among small-scale fisherfolk: a community co-design approach
- **Catherine Sandiford-Tull:** Ensuring equitable and sustainable benefits from the waste to wealth and health value chain development in Barbados
- ***Si Yu Lam:** Value Chain Characterization of Dried Swim Bladder ("Fish Maw") Trade from French Guiana to Hong Kong: Socio-Economical, Ecological Implications and Strategies for a Sustainable Path Forward
- **Maria Pena:** Blue justice in small-scale fisheries: perspectives from the literature and Barbados fisherfolk

LUNCH BREAK | 12:00 - 14:00

GOVERNANCE | 14:00 - 15:30

- **Krista Sherman:** Stakeholder Perspectives On The Status & Conservation Management of Critically Endangered Nassau Grouper In The Bahamas
- **John Claydon:** Investigating models of alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities for small-scale fisherfolk
- **Tyann Henry:** Sustaining Queen Conch fisheries and livelihoods in the Turks and Caicos Islands
- **Nancie Cummings:** Pilot Testing Integrated Implementation of WECAFC Endorsed Instruments: Could This Multipronged Approach Spur the Shift Towards Enhanced Enforcement of Conservation and Management of Aquatic Resources by Members?
- ***Emmanuel Maldonado-Gonzalez:** Navigating the Tide: Coastal Displacement and Local Seafood Accessibility in Culebra, Puerto Rico
- **Alessandra Polo:** A multi-stakeholder initiative to bring effective marine protection to St. Kitts and Nevis

COFFEE BREAK | 15:30 - 16:00

FISHERS FORUM | 16:00- 18:00

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

REEF ECOSYSTEMS AND FISHERIES | 8:00 - 10:00

- ***Tami Hildahl:** Genetic and epigenetic variation among gray snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*) populations in US waters
- **Laura Jay Grove:** Overcoming Common Challenges in Fishery-Independent Surveys in the U.S. Caribbean
- ***Ophélie Marc:** Age And Growth of Hogfish *Lachnolaimus Maximus* from the Southern Gulf of Mexico
- **Ana Giro Petersen:** 2024 Mesoamerican Reef Health Report Card Records Improvement Amid Ongoing Challenges.
- **Auriane Petit:** Status of Coral Reefs in the Caribbean: 10 years on, what's the situation?
- ***Tami Hildahl:** Genetic stock structure of greater amberjack *Seriola dumerili* in US waters
- **Ron Hill:** Advanced technologies illuminate more than fish ages

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30

FISH SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS| 10:30 - 12:00

- **Kayla Blincow:** Comparisons of habitat use and spawning migration behavior of yellowtail parrotfish (*Sparisoma rubripinne*) across a sedimentation gradient in Reef Bay, St. John, US Virgin Islands.
- ***Janelle Layton:** Understanding Energy Output During Spawning Aggregation Events of Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) and Tiger Grouper (*Mycteroperca tigris*) on Little Cayman, Cayman Islands
- **Shaun Kadison / Richard Nemeth:** Training underwater robots to identify spawning groupers, snappers and other key fish species using AI
- **Martha Prada:** Pilot Implementation of the Regional Fish Spawning Aggregation Management Plan
- **Danielle Morley:** Western Dry Rocks Science Plan: Using multidisciplinary science to examine the efficacy of a seasonal fishing closure at a multi-species spawning aggregation site.

LUNCH BREAK | 12:00 - 14:00

NOAA QUEEN CONCH MEETING | 14:00 - 16:00

Invitation Only Contact: Orian Tzadik - NOAA Federal
<orian.tzadik@noaa.gov>

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

COUNCIL REGIONAL DE GUADALOUPE SPECIAL SESSION AND PANEL DISCUSSION | 14:00 - 16:00

1. Introduction (25 minutes)

- Promotional video (10 minutes): Capsule video "Heading to the Sea for Blue Growth."
- Opening speech (15 minutes): Address by Camille PELAGE, the President of the Blue Economy Commission.

2. Guadeloupean Fishing Facing the Challenge of Renewal (30 minutes)

- The Guadeloupean fishing sector, the necessity of fleet renewal and training of seafarers: Charly VINCENT, President of the Regional Fisheries Committee, 15 minutes;
- Response from the authorities: Edouard WEBER, Director of Maritime Affairs of Guadeloupe, 15 minutes.

3. Guadeloupean Fishing Facing the Climate Challenge (45 minutes)

- Climate change and coral reef resilience: Charlotte DROMARD, 10 minutes;
- Oceanographic expeditions (Karubenthos 2012, 2015, and LPRIG): a tremendous accelerator of knowledge of marine natural heritage: Kanell AMBROISE, 10 minutes;
- Regional policy on the invasion of sargassum seaweed: status and future prospects: Sylvie GUSTAVE DIT DUFLO, 15 minutes;
- The mangroves of the Guadeloupe archipelago: an ecosystem serving the protection and resilience of marine biodiversity: Olivier GROS, 10 minutes.

4. Discussions with the Audience (15 minutes)

- Question and answer session with the audience

5. Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

COFFEE BREAK | 16:00 - 16:30

GCFI MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 16:30 - 17:30

POSTER SESSION | 19:00 - 21:00

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

SPECIAL SESSION: MARINE MEGAFaUNA GUIDING THE WAY TO IMPROVED OCEAN MANAGEMENT | 8:00 - 13:00

Keynote Presentation

Setting the Scene: Partner Presentations

- ***Estela Grau:** Identification and characterization of a potential shark nursery area on the island of Sint Maarten (Dutch side).
- **Rita I. Sellares-Blasco:** National census of the population of the Greater Caribbean manatee *Trichechus manatus manatus* through aerial census and use of Drone in the Dominican Republic
- **Rocio Prieto González:** Transboundary Connectivity and Conservation of Humpback Whales in the Northern Lesser Antilles: Insights from MEGARA projects
- **Jaime Bolaños-Jiménez:** A review of strandings and incidents involving cetaceans in Venezuelan waters, 1970-2024
- **Océane Beaufort:** INA Scuba : Mobilization of French West Indies diving clubs to rapidly improve knowledge on threatened marine species. Case of the spotted eagle ray (*Aetobatus narinari*).
- **Dorka Yasmin Evangelista Perez:** Marine Megafauna Research Expedition: Establishing a Bilateral Marine Protected Area Around the Beata Ridge, Dominican Republic.
- **Question & Answer Session**

COFFEE BREAK | 10:45 - 11:00

- **Jake Levenson:** Every island counts: sea turtle nesting occurrences in Dominica from 2004-2023
- **Jamie Aquino:** The role of Experiential Learning on Haitian fishing communities' motivation to protect marine megafauna in Haiti's Baraderes-Cayemite Marine Protected Area
- **Diane Claridge:** Low abundance of Blainville's beaked whales at a Navy testing range in The Bahamas highlights the need for effective mitigation measures
- **Charlotte Dunn:** Aerial Photogrammetry of Blainville's beaked whales in The Bahamas reveals reproductive and health metrics
- **Anne Eulin-Garrigue:** Use of diatoms as markers of sea turtle movements in Martinique. Initial results, prospects and potential.
- **Louise Simon:** Does culture spatialize sperm whale distribution across the Caribbean?
- **Question & Answer Session**

Panel Discussion: Knowing all this - What do we need to enable effective management decisions?

Closing Remarks

LUNCH BREAK | 13:00

FIELD TRIPS / FREE TIME TO EXPLORE | 13:00 - 18:00

CINEFISH FILM FESTIVAL: 19:00 - 21:00



THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

SARGASSUM SOLUTIONS | 8:00 - 10:00

- **Franziska Elmer:** Introduction - Overview of Sargassum Impacts
- **Micaela Small:** Understanding sargassum brown tide and its effect on corals in Barbados
- **Susana Perera Valderrama:** Promoting regional collaboration in addressing Sargassum inundations
- **Ulrick Mondongue:** SAMTool - Satellite and drift modelling tools for sargassum collection plan
- **Mariana Leon-Perez:** Advancing Sargassum Management: Puerto Rico's Policies, Research, and Implementation Challenges
- **Joel Gonzalez:** Experiences learned through the use of Barriers for Sargassum containment and deviation
- **Thierry Bellugue de Beaupré:** To Contain Sargassum
- **Kelly Kingon:** Integrating students, fishers, farmers and nonprofits to develop sargassum into a resource

COFFEE BREAK - SARGASSUM MINI EXPO | 10:00 - 10:30

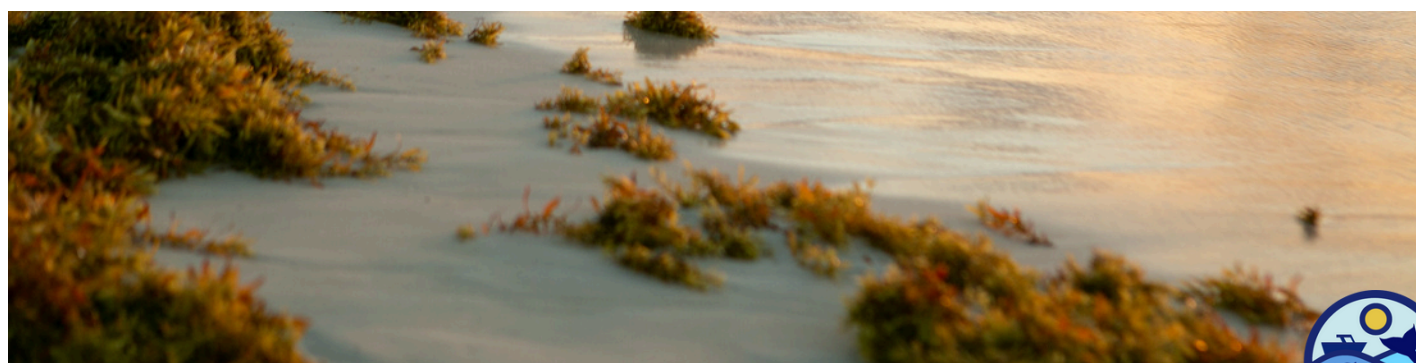
SARGASSUM SOLUTIONS | 10:30 - 12:00

- **Richeda Speede:** Landscape Study: Technological Innovations for Strengthening the Resilience and Adaptation of Latin American and Caribbean Economies Challenged by Sargassum Influxes
- **Tremaine Bowman:** Deep sea research: methods, instruments and implications for the region.
- **Pauline Wech:** Collection of fresh sargassum at sea and reimmersion off the coast of Martinique
- **Franziska Elmer:** Carbon sequestration benefits of deep-sea deposition of Sargassum
- Stakeholder consultation on sinking seaweed (Tremaine Bowman and Franziska Elmer)

AQUACULTURE | 12:00 - 12:30

- **Eric Saillant:** A selective breeding program to improve aquaculture performance of eastern oyster *Crassostrea virginica* in different salinity environments
- **Franziska Elmer:** Catch and grow: how Sargassum aquafarms can flatten the feedstock fluctuation

LUNCH BREAK | 12:30 - 14:00



THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS | 14:00 - 16:30

- **Amanda Catron:** Lessons Learned from the Blue Carbon Inventory Project: International Collaboration to Enhance the Management and Carbon Accounting of Coastal Ecosystems
- **Fabian Blanchard:** Ecosystem-based management and ecosystem services: focus on the nursery of the estuary of the "Rivière de Cayenne"
- **Jennifer Tocny:** Monitoring and Management of Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems in Guadeloupe Port Authority: Preliminary Results from 2021-2023
- **Iker Irazabal:** Coral Mortality on the Atlantic Coast of the Dominican Republic: Experiences with a multi-institutional monitoring program
- **Louise Chourot:** Monitoring the growth, state of health and genetic characterization of *Acropora cervicornis* populations as part of an experimental in situ restoration project.
- **Henri Vallès:** Restoring Caribbean Coastal Protection: The wave attenuation potential of elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*)
- **Aldo Croquer:** MONITOREA: A roadmap for monitoring mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs and its first implementation in the Dominican Republic
- **Cléo Baron:** Implementing nature-based solutions to climate change, by Guadeloupe Port Authority: the case of mangroves

COFFEE BREAK | 16:30 - 16:45

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS | 16:45 - 18:00

- **Simone Mège:** Long-term monitoring of white sea urchins (*Tripneustes ventricosus*) and variegated sea urchins (*Lytechinus variegatus*) in the marine seagrass beds in Guadeloupe Island (Lesser Antilles)
- ***Alexandra Pineda-Muñoz:** Long-term Trajectory of the Threatened Coral *Acropora palmata* in San Andres Island, Seaflower Marine Protected Area
- **Lucie Labbouz:** Updating Management Plans for Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol
- **Adara Jaggernaut:** Investigating Fish Communities on Coral Reefs with Different Levels of Management in Grenada
- **Candace Fields:** Baited Remote Underwater Video Station (BRUVS) Survey of Sharks in The Bahamas in 2015-18 and 2023-24: Monitoring the First Atlantic Shark Sanctuary
- **Jessica Crillon:** The acceptability of marine protected areas to fishermen: what tools should be deployed ?

FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

CLIMATE CHANGE | 8:00 - 10:00 (EST)

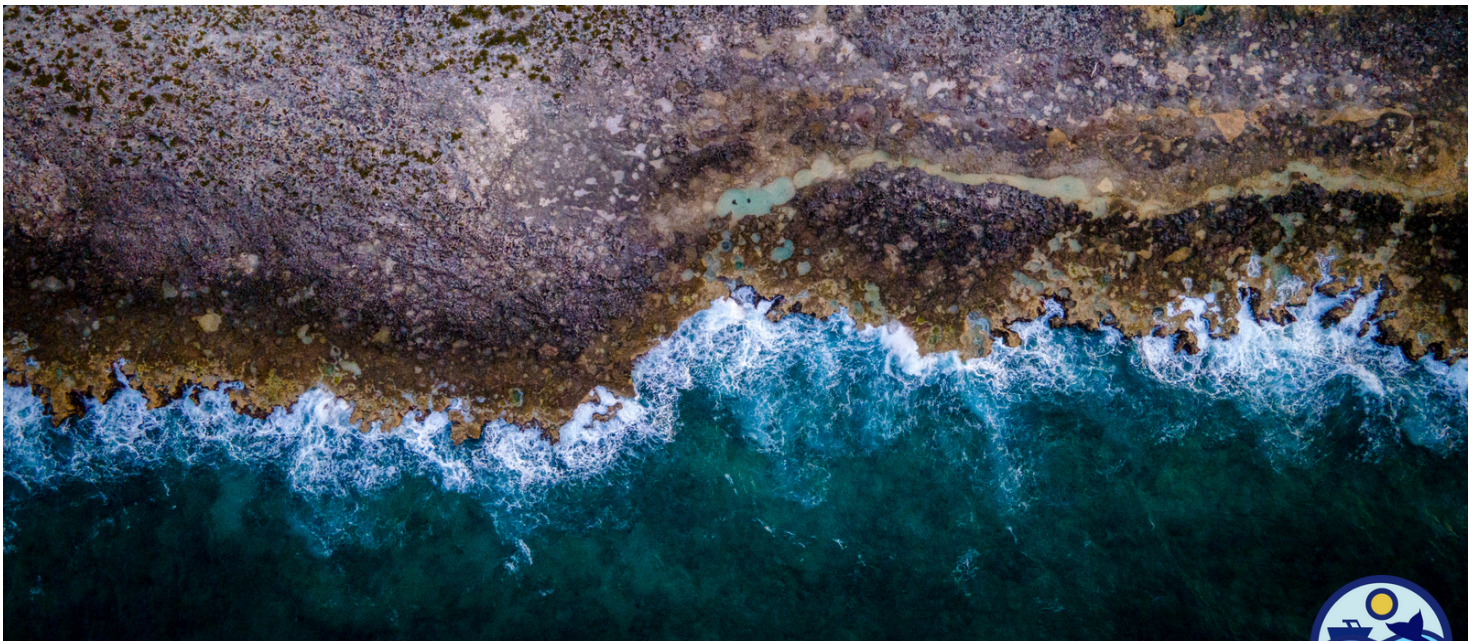
- **Ruleo Camacho:** Climate Change, Coral Bleaching, and Hurricanes: Insights from Antigua and Barbuda's 2023/2024 Coral Reef Crisis
- **Brian Walker:** Regional reef fish assemblage maps provide baseline biogeography for tropicalization monitoring.
- **Maria F. Villalpando:** Use of Orthomosaics to assess coral bleaching impacts in Bayahibe, Dominican Republic
- **Jack Johnson:** Effects of a Catastrophic Marine Heatwave on Coral Reef Community Structure
- **Eduardo Bone-Moron:** Climate Resilience, Biodiversity Conservation, & Sustainable Livelihoods in the Caribbean

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30 (EST)

INVERTEBRATES | 10:30 - 12:00

- **Stephen Nimrod:** A Comparative Analysis of Historically and Recently Harvested Queen Conch (*Lobatus gigas*) Populations in Southern Grenada, West Indies
- **Robinson Bazarro:** The Influence of Coastal Water Quality on the Success of Microalgae Growth and Queen Conch Larval Development
- **Megan Davis:** eConch: Online Course About Growing Queen Conch for Conservation and Restoration in the Caribbean
- **Becky Holt:** Enhancing the Economics and Sustainability of Queen Conch Fisheries through Value-Added Markets in Puerto Rico
- **Silja Ramirez:** Economic valuation of the lobster fishery in the Caribbean of Guatemala
- **Amanda Matthews:** Reliable Milk Conch Captive Breeding Population helps to Pave the Way to Establish a Queen Conch Captive Breeding Population
- **Zara Lizzeth Zuniga Lopez:** Marine litter source, fate and concentration in the Caribbean of Honduras

LUNCH BREAK | 12:00 - 14:00 (EST)



FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION | 14:00 - 15:45

- **Jen Loch:** Fisheries Science to "S.M.I.L.E." About: Using camera-equipped citizen scientists to estimate fish lengths in situ
- **Sander van Lopik:** Eggspedition Bonaire, Fish egg research in Bonaire
- **Kimberly Baldwin:** Waves of Change: Coastal Resilience with a Participatory UAS Approach
- **Damien Chevallier:** The response of sea turtles to vocalizations opens new perspectives to reduce their bycatch
- **Shelly-Ann Cox:** Development of a Bespoke Fisheries Information Platform for Barbados
- **Emmanuel Vangout:** Climate Change Restoration of Seagrass Beds in Guadeloupe: Experiments With Eco-Moorings and Transplantation of *Thalassia testudinum*

COMMUNICATION | 15:45 - 16:30

- **Makeda Serju:** "Sanctuary or Snack what provokes the attack": A comparative discourse analysis approach to investigating local shark perceptions between an island where sharks are protected and an island where sharks are commonly consumed.
- **Silja Ramirez:** Ecosailing Program
- **Karlisa Callwood:** Bahamas Best Catch: Using Knowledge, Perceptions, and Motivations to Design a Sustainable Seafood Campaign

COFFEE BREAK | 16:30 - 17:00

GCFI77 CLOSING & AWARDS CEREMONY | 17:00 - 18:00



GCFI Gratefully Thanks The Following Sponsors of GCFI77

